

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 67

6 April 1978

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

New Round of Parana Talks Set for 27 April	A	1	1/A6
Reportage on LAES Council Meeting in Venezuela	A	1	1/A6
Havana Radio Report	A	1	1/A6
Countries Join Action Committees	A	1	1/A6
Briefs: Health Ministers Meeting	A	2	1/A7

ARGENTINA

Army Chief Viola Discusses National Situation	B	1	1/A8
[LA NACION 1 Apr]			
Conclusions of Border Commission To Be Released	B	5	1/A12
Foreign Minister Montes To Visit Ecuador 11-13 April	B	5	1/A12
LA NACION Examines Success of Carter's Visit [5 Apr]	B	5	1/A12
Ambassador to France Discusses World Cup Boycott	B	6	1/A13
Montoneros Promise No Disruption	B	7	1/A14
Economy Ministry Issues Report on Foreign Investment	B	7	1/A14
Briefs: Sorghum to Japan	B	7	1/A14

BOLIVIA

Reportage, Commentary on 9 July Elections	C	1	1/B1
Banzer Discusses Elections	C	1	1/B1
Military Confirms Election Date	C	1	1/B1
Adriazola Denies Foreign Pressure	C	1	1/B1
PRESENCIA Speaks Against Delay [3 Apr]	C	2	1/B2
EL DIARIO Comments [1 Apr]	C	3	1/B3
Government Charges Tin Sales Tied to U.S. Politics	C	4	1/B4
Briefs: Miners Demand Improvements; French Financial Commission;	C	4	1/B4
Canadian Delegation Arrives			

BRAZIL

Geisel Explains African Policy to Carter	D	1	1/B5
[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 4 Apr]			
Rumors on Renegotiation of Nuclear Pact With U.S. Denied	D	2	1/B6
[JORNAL DO BRASIL 3 Apr]			
Brazil's Ability to Implement Nuclear Pact Worries FRG	D	2	1/B6
[JORNAL DO BRASIL 3 Apr]			
Figueiredo Promises Few Political Concessions	D	4	1/B8
ARENA Rebuts Magalhaes Pinto's Accusations	D	5	1/B9
[O GLOBO 29 Mar]			

CHILE

Pinochet Addresses Nation on Variety of Subjects	E	1	1/B11
'Transition Phase' Announced	E	1	1/E11

Denounces Defamatory 'Campaign'	E	1	1/B11
Pardons, Commutations Announced	E	2	1/B12
Borders Discussed	E	2	1/B12
Government Will Allow More Exiles To Return	E	3	1/B13

COLOMBIA

Defense Minister Writes U.S. Envoy on Drug Issue	F	1	1/B14
Senate Protests Drug Trafficking Charges	F	1	1/B14
ELN Communique Answers Candidate's Truce Offer	F	1	1/B14
[EL ESPECTADOR 29 Mar]			
Merchant Marine Union Approved Boycott Against Nicaragua	F	2	1/C1

ECUADOR

Government Spokesman Says Order Will Be Maintained	G	1	1/C2
Cabinet Crisis Denied	G	1	1/C2
Leftist Broad Front Weakened by Withdrawal	G	1	1/C2
New Electoral Tribunal Members Announced	G	2	1/C3
227 Arrested in 2 Days of Student Demonstrations	G	2	1/C3

PERU

Exiled Gen Leonidas Rodriguez Figueroa To Return	J	1	1/C4
EXPRESO Comments on PCP's Assembly Candidates [26 Mar]	J	1	1/C4

VENEZUELA

President Sends Note to Nicaraguan Government	L	1	1/C5
Perez Refuses Comment	L	1	1/C5
Guerrillas Captured During Attack on Camp	L	1	1/C5
Interior Minister Comments	L	2	1/C6
1979 Budget Projects Increased Oil Exports	L	2	1/C6

MEXICO

Roel Explains Refusal To Send Troops to Lebanon	M	1	1/C7
Perez Praises Mexican Position on Sale of Gas to U.S.	M	1	1/C7

PANAMA

Radio Mia Commentators Urge Rejection of Neutrality Treaty	N	1	1/C8
Torrijos Speech Reaffirms Revolutionary Line	N	2	1/C9
Demonstrators Protest Precandidate Registration Process	N	3	1/C10
Assembly Precandidates Requested To Turn In Weapons	N	4	1/C11
Briefs: Increased Revenue; Departing Italian, Indian Ambassadors	N	4	1/C11

CENTRAL AMERICA

EL SALVADOR

Archbishop Charges Bias in News Media	P	1	1/C12
---------------------------------------	---	---	-------

HONDURAS

LA PRENSA Director Charges Bribery by Standard Fruit
Officer Refutes Charge

P 1 1/C12
P 2 1/C13

NICARAGUA

High School Students Occupy Institute in Masaya
Human Rights Commission Sends Note to Somoza
Embassy in Caracas Rejects Venezuelan Communique
18 Persons Reported on Hunger Strikes

P 3 1/C14
P 3 1/C14
P 3 1/C14
P 3 1/C14

CUBA

Commentary Scores NATO Exercise in Red Sea
Castro Tours Villa Clara Textile Mill Site
Fidel Receives Cypriot Socialist Leader Lissaridhis
Ministry Announcement on Repairs at Marti Airport
Hart, Machado Ventura Attend UJC-Pioneer Ceremony
Garcia Pelaez, Dorticos Attend Hungarian Reception
Briefs: Malmierca Congratulates Santiago CDR

Q 1 1/D1
Q 2 1/D2
Q 2 1/D2
Q 3 1/D3
Q 3 1/D3
Q 3 1/D3
Q 3 1/D3

APR 14 1978

Item 856-B-5 Pr Ex 2.10: FBIS-LAT-78-67

Contin

FBIS-LAT-78-67

Thursday

6 April 1978

Vol VI No 67

DAILY REPORT

COMPLETED
ORIGINAL

LATIN AMERICA

Available for Distribution
From NTIS

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

46

This publication contains current news and commentary monitored by FBIS from foreign broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, and periodicals. Items are processed from the first or best available source; it should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign-language sources are translated by FBIS. Those from English-language sources are transcribed, with the original phrasing and other characteristics retained.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [] are supplied by FBIS. Labels such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how FBIS processed the information from the original. Names rendered phonetically or in transliteration are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clearly heard but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source.

Users of this publication may cite FBIS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying it as the secondary source. For example: "FBIS reports that Radio Moscow announced . . ." or "FBIS has monitored a broadcast from Hanoi which says . . ."

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

NEW ROUND OF PARANA TALKS SET FOR 27 APRIL

PY051824Y Paris APP in Spanish 1703 GMT 5 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 5 Apr--The Brazilian Foreign Ministry today announced that the next tripartite meeting among Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay will take place in Asuncion on 27 April 1978.

The meeting at first was scheduled for 24 April, but at the request of Argentina was changed to 27 April, a Foreign Ministry source said.

REPORTAGE ON LAES COUNCIL MEETING IN VENEZUELA

Havana Radio Report

FL051227Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 Apr 78 FL

[Text] At its second day of sessions in Caraballeda, Venezuela, the Latin American Economic System--LAES--council has censured the restrictive commercial measures imposed by the industrialized capitalist countries on the underdeveloped countries. With respect to this, an Ecuadoran delegation proposal was approved condemning restrictions applied by capitalist countries on raw materials produced by underdeveloped countries and demanding suppression of discriminatory measures in the U.S. foreign trade law.

At yesterday's session the chief of the Cuban delegation, Minister Hector Rodriguez Llompart, made a presentation warning all to be on guard against all divisive maneuvers in the Caribbean region which benefit the enemies of the countries of the region.

Another interesting presentation was made by UNCTAD Secretary General Gamani Corea, who stated that the underdeveloped countries' foreign debt will rise this year to \$350 billion. Delegate Corea expounded on the grave world crisis which he said affects the underdeveloped countries in a special manner. He stated the need to achieve a new international economic order.

Countries Join Action Committees

PA051245Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0257 GMT 5 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Caraballeda, Venezuela, 4 Apr (EFE)--Today six member countries of the Latin American Economic System (LAES) joined four committees of the organization during the fourth meeting of the Latin American council which is being held here. Haiti, Mexico and Venezuela joined the action committee on housing and social service building [edificaciones de interes social], whose fundamental objective is the promotion of regional cooperation to speed up economic and social development. The committee has its headquarters in Quito.

Ecuador and Jamaica joined the action committee for the production, marketing and distribution of high nutritional value food complements, which has its headquarters in Caracas. Trinidad and Tobago became a member of the action committee for the production of fertilizers, which has its headquarters in Mexico City.

Haiti and Jamaica joined the action committee for sea and fresh water products, which has its headquarters in Lima. The objectives of this committee include the creation of specific cooperation mechanisms that will permit the joint exploitation of the region's fishing resources.

At the end of the first party of today's session, Brazil announced its willingness to join the action committee on housing and social service buildings. The LAES Permanent Secretariat had urged the member countries to join this committee to give it greater vitality.

In LAES at least three governments need to be willing to carry out specific programs in any field in order for an ad hoc committee to be established for channeling those programs.

BRIEFS

HEALTH MINISTERS MEETING--Santa Cruz will be the site of the fifth meeting of health ministers of Andean countries aimed at coordinating actions in the specific field of health. The Bolivian health minister will open the meeting on 5 April with the attendance of the health ministers of Peru, Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela and representatives of the World Health Organization and the Pan-American Health Organization. [La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 3 Apr 78 PY]

ARMY CHIEF VIOLA DISCUSSES NATIONAL SITUATION

PY050140Y Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 1 Apr 78 pp 1, 4 PY

[Excerpts] Maj Gen Roberto E. Viola, army chief of staff, referred to various current matters, among them presidential renewal, changes in the power structure, university reorganization, subversion and the measures which the government will adopt to counter-act capricious reports released abroad regarding the country's situation. He did so at the first conference of the year on the analysis of the "social, political and economic situation," which was held at the Plaza Hotel and organized by the Center of Comparative Studies.

Business and bank managers attended and formulated the questions answered by General Viola, referring to these matters.

The conference planners were also present. They were Roberto Aleman, Enrique Folcini [Central Bank director], Lorenzo J. Sigaut, Nicanor Costa Mendez [former foreign minister], Raymundo Podesta [industrial development secretary], and Carlos A. Floria. The members of the center's academic council were also present: Carlos S. Brignone, Adolfo Portela, Eugenio Pucciarelli, Oscar Gomez Povina and Benitu Portela.

General Viola said: "I will now answer the questionnaire you submitted to me at noon today." "The second question states: What is your opinion regarding the creation of an economic and social council at this stage of the process, based on the style of--for example--the one existing in France, which is of a consultative nature.

"The armed forces, separately and jointly on several occasions, have devoted time to exhaustively analyzing all those representative factors which contribute to achieving an authentic, republican, representative and federal democracy.

"The organization or creation of an economic and social council is to be found among the factors which merit analysis but it is not yet certain whether it will be adopted by the armed forces.

"If I were to express only my personal opinion, I would say that it could be a very good experiment.

"The rules of the game for private activities, their clear formulation and the provisions for continuity in the future are the basic factors for future economic expansion. A repeated confirmation of the continuity of these rules of the game is needed.

"Here comes the question: Is the junta prepared to guarantee, without any type of doubt, this continuity?

"It would seem that up to this point there is no good reason for casting doubt on the possibility of continuity in the rules of the game which have been established--basically, as apparently referred to here--in the economic sector.

"Nobody can doubt that criticism can be made of the development of the process, but what nobody can doubt either is the fact that absolute and total harmony has been maintained up to the present time in the economic sector.

"Also, we must not believe that there are motives which will cause this harmony and these rules of the game (which, according to the person who asked the question, are so well or so clearly formulated) to be modified.

"We must take into account that this is a revolution with clearly defined characteristics--in other words, it has been implemented in an overall form, equally, by the three armed forces. In other words, it is not the appearance on the national scene of a certain group of individuals who belong to the armed forces and who take over power at a determined time with a determined idea.

"This is the government of the armed forces. The revolution, the process and the three armed forces--do not doubt it--will continue in the same way, to fully and absolutely implement it with a doctrinal ideology.

"The next question states: Are conditions appropriate in the country for the investment of foreign capital?

"I believe that conditions in the country are fully appropriate for the investment of foreign capital. If we take the three basic factors which foreign capital needs for investing, such as legal regulations which guarantee an adequate yield on capital, order and security and political stability, I am fully convinced that the three conditions exist in an overall form in Argentina."

"Another question: For the election of the 'fourth man,' will the military junta have to decide the matter with a unanimous vote or will a majority vote do?

"This is determined in the documents of the junta. A unanimous vote has to be cast by the junta members when electing the president.

"This calls for the following question: If the vote is not unanimous, what happens?

"I am absolutely sure that the vote will be unanimous. I am fully and absolutely convinced that this will happen.

"As for the rest, I again emphasize: I see that there is coherence among the armed forces. I see a spiritual identity, a conceptual homogeneity which makes it very difficult for serious disagreement, which would practically cause a breakup to occur under these circumstances.

"In order to guarantee the stability of the process of reorganization, would it not be more appropriate for the military junta to continue with its current members for 4 or 5 more years? This is the first part of the question.

"With everything there always are inconveniences. The first factor to be taken into account was practically decided on at the beginning of the process, in other words, periodic renovation is required but not over a 6- or 7-year period. In this case it would be 4 and 3: 7 years. The armed forces commanders, the members of the military junta, would remain in their posts for 7 years.

"As for the rest, the armed forces urgently need a renovation process, even at the very top."

"In other words, we can say, admit, that stability in the political sector would be guaranteed, but never stability in the military sector, over such a long period as a 7-year term for the chief in the exercise of his functions within a revolutionary government."

"The second part of this question states: What is the advantage of a president who is not a member of and is independent of the military junta?"

"What has really been determined through the basic documents of national reorganization is that the post of president be separated from the junta. This is a procedure which has particular and special characteristics and which was taken into account due to the successive inconveniences which occurred during previous military governments in which other systems were used."

"In other words, which of them is the best? In the first place we will have to see how events develop with an independent president and then we can give a concrete opinion."

"Well, the mechanism is that the military junta meets and unanimously decides when to appoint the president and when to remove him, if deemed necessary due to his not carrying out his functions appropriately. In other words, it is implemented through a meeting of the military commanders junta, which makes the decision unanimously."

"Second, how will they be named and who will name the commanders of the three forces?"

"It is also written into the basic documents of the process that the naming of the commander will be in accordance with the regulations of each force. I cannot speak about the other forces. What I can tell you is what the army has decided. The army has decided that the army chief will be named by taking into account the personal opinion of the major generals and naming as chief one of the major generals who is among the top two-thirds of the total of ranking major generals. I do not know whether I made myself clear."

"The third point is: Once the change is implemented, will the Legislative Advisory Commission [CAL] continue with its current functions or will they be expanded?"

"No, CAL will rigorously continue to function as it does now. On the other hand, CAL has demonstrated that it is a highly efficient organization and it has been of undeniable help to the executive branch."

"In the fourth place: In what way will the armed forces control the implementation of the policies which have been outlined and achieve their objectives?"

"Basically, the functions of the military junta are those of naming and removing the president, setting objectives and policies to be implemented by the executive branch and overseeing progress of the process. The question seems to ask how the armed forces will control implementation of these policies."

"The armed forces control them through several instruments: in the first place, the CAL; in the second, the secretariats of the chiefs act in the political function of advising their respective chiefs regarding development of the government's plans."

"These will be the organizations which must evaluate the development of policies implemented by the executive branch and see whether they are in accordance with the objectives and policies outlined by the military junta."

"Here we have the last question: Having diminished the problem of subversion, aren't the cohesive factors for the unity of objectives and methods of the armed forces reduced? Aren't doors opened in which certain political sectors (as has happened at other times) begin to have an influence over decisions and thus destroy the cohesion which is doing so much good for the current process?

"The question is divided into several parts. Let us take the first part, as it is an assertion.

"On alleviating the problem of subversion and therefore the cohesive factors for the unity of objectives and methods of the armed forces, I say that this is not really an assertion. The fight against subversion was certainly one among a number of cohesive factors.

"In other words, the fact that the three armed forces jointly implemented the movement of 24 March is also a cohesive factor. The similarity of the objectives set is also a cohesive factor. The conceptual similarity of the three armed forces is also a cohesive factor. As I see it, the fight against subversion was another cohesive factor, but with its disappearance in no way will the cohesion have been lost.

"Let us continue with the other part: Aren't doors opened in which certain political sectors (as has happened at other times) begin to influence decisions and thus destroy the cohesion which is doing so much good for the current process?

"Up to the present time there is nothing to show that this is happening and we believe that, for a discreetly long period, it will not happen. At this time and under no circumstances is there a concrete example indicating this will happen in the near future and thus destroy the coherence which is doing so much good for the current process. I do not believe that this coherence will be lost through political action. As for the rest, I am absolutely convinced that the cohesion which has been shown by the armed forces up to the present time will be maintained until the conclusion of the process.

"If there is one thing about which all of us are absolutely convinced it is that this process must come out well. There is no other alternative. I have finished the questions which you submitted to me. If anyone wishes to ask any other question or does not believe that the questions already submitted have been answered fully enough, I ask you to do so. I am ready for you to take the time necessary to do so."

Question: "Are the armed forces going to adopt any special measures to eliminate the distorted international image which we are experiencing?"

Answer: "Without a doubt. I have not referred to this because none of the questions touched on the matter. The government must not act alone, but the government is trying, with all the means at its disposal, to eliminate this distorted international image of which you are speaking. The government is greatly concerned about the campaigns--in nearly all cases totally and absolutely distorted--being carried out in countries, principally in Europe and North America, creating really difficult situations under certain circumstances. You can be absolutely certain that the government is undertaking a two-pronged attack: eliminating the causes which produce this unfavorable image and developing adequate psychological action to end these campaigns which really affect Argentina."

Question: "Regarding one of your remarks indicating that the disappearance of the fight against subversion was one of the most important factors in the world today, can you comment on the current situation?"

Answer: "Yes. This fight against subversion, which we can call the military fight against subversion, can really be considered to be practically concluded. Only a few subversives remain who are carrying out military actions. They do not have the capability of carrying out any more actions which will endanger national security. If they had the capability, over a long period of time, to implement an action, plant a bomb, destroy a section of rail, carry out sabotage or any other type of action, it is because this requires only the participation of two or three men with a decision to carry out an action at a determined time.

"What must really be taken into account is the fact that the fight against subversion is of an overall nature--it encompasses not only the military field but also others: labor, education and religion. We can say that in these sectors there still are instruments and influences which are and can still disturb the republic's social peace. We can say that the military arm has been practically liquidated. Do you want any more details? It is enough.

"Gentlemen, thank you very much."

CONCLUSIONS OF BORDER COMMISSION TO BE RELEASED

PY060054Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Apr--The conclusions reached by the first Argentine-Chilean joint commission, which met at the Chilean Embassy to try to find "equitable and harmonious" formulas for an acceptable solution of the Beagle conflict, will be signed tomorrow at 1100, according to an official source at the Chilean Embassy. At the same time news media will receive a joint communique reporting the results of the talks.

FOREIGN MINISTER MONTES TO VISIT ECUADOR 11-13 APRIL

PY060045Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2325 GMT 5 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Apr--Argentine Foreign Minister Oscar A. Montes will make an official visit to Ecuador from 11 to 13 April in response to an official invitation from this brother country. The foreign minister will return the visit which former Ecuadorian Foreign Minister Jose Salvador Lara made to Argentina last year. Montes will travel with his wife and a small retinue.

LA NACION EXAMINES SUCCESS OF CARTER'S VISIT

PY052320Y Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 5 Apr 78 p 8 PY

[Editorial: "Carter in Brazil"]

[Text] It is obvious that Carter did not altogether succeed in fulfilling the objectives he had in mind when he included Brazil in his tour.

It is very clear that Mr Carter and his advisers--or some of them, because there are marked differences among the team--overestimate their own capabilities of convincing those who do not share the beliefs and policies of the White House. Furthermore, to the lack of understanding of Latin American psychology, its men and their capabilities, is added a mistaken notion of the legitimate interests of Latin American countries.

Throughout the years U.S. foreign policy has shown markedly opposing trends. It would not be an exaggeration to say that, irrespective of variations, Washington has implemented a policy of paternalism which fluctuated from corrective admonishment to an almost exaggerated acquiescence. The latter occurred when U.S. national interests, or those of some of its most powerful groups, led it to tolerate leaders who used unbridled force for their own and exclusive benefit, even if this attitude attacked institutions truly and staunchly defended by other people.

As in many other countries of Latin America, Brazil's economic and social development is tied to relations with countries outside the area in order to have access to energy-producing methods in line with the progress of science. The power of choosing the appropriate solutions for national problems in this area is an act of sovereignty, and the resistance to the monopolies of the superpowers is in line with this attitude.

President Carter's visit to Brasilia was aimed--the word is the diplomatic rather than the exact way of saying it--at asking Brazil to adjust its nuclear policy to the guidelines which, according to the missionary viewpoint of the U.S. President, are the only possible ones. Even if his talks with Geisel did not turn out to be as successful as he expected, we could say that he did get the right answer: Brazil, like Argentina and other Latin American countries, is an adult country.

AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE DISCUSSES WORLD CUP BOYCOTT

PY051833Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1424 GMT 5 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpts] Cordoba, 5 Apr--Argentine Ambassador to France Tomas de Anchorena has stated that a so-called committee to boycott the 1978 World Cup has been formed in Paris with the purpose of creating "a black image of the Argentine situation," although its members "are fully aware that the impression that the visitors will have of Argentina will be totally different from the one they have fabricated in lieu of the real situation in the republic."

"I believe," he said, "that it is very important that the Argentine people realize that the aggression is not against a government or against the group which has the responsibility of directing the country; the aggression is directed against each and every Argentine."

Ambassador Anchorena made these statements to the morning newspaper "LOS PRINCIPIOS" published here today.

This effort, said Anchorena, has been intensified on the eve of the 1978 World Cup, with the objective of changing the minds of those people planning to attend the event who will then come away with a negative attitude or who may even cancel their trip to Argentina.

Montoneros Promise No Disruption

PY051901Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1549 GMT 5 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpts] Madrid, 5 Apr--The European commission of the Peronist Montonero Movement stated in Madrid today that it will not create any difficulty for the World Cup soccer tournament in Argentina but that it could not be held responsible for the actions of its military branch. The announcement was made during a meeting to introduce this commission in Europe.

Juan Gelman, president of the European commission, stated that the Peronist Montonero Movement "will not do anything to hinder the implementation of the 1978 World Cup, which is a military junta operation for prestige by recalling the farce of the 1936 Olympic Games organized by Hitler and Goebbels." Gelman admitted, however, the possibility of Montonero armed actions when he stated that "the political branch of the Peronist Montonero Movement will not be held responsible for actions of the military branch." Gelman indicated that the Argentine military junta is preparing provocative actions before and during the World Cup in order to put the blame on the Montoneros.

Regarding a possible boycott by several countries, Gelman stated that "the decision is up to each government, but we would rather have all the eligible teams participate in the World Cup so that they may realize the tragedy of our people."

The European commission of the Peronist Montonero Movement indicated that the average price of tickets to the soccer games will be \$12 while the average salary in Argentina is \$80, "which considerably reduces the possibility of Argentines to attend."

ECONOMY MINISTRY ISSUES REPORT ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT

PY042143Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1545 GMT 4 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 4 Apr--From March 1977 to February 1978, approved foreign investments amounted to \$217,511,500: \$137,103,500 in capital investment and \$80,407,900 [figures as received] in credit capitalization. These figures were released today by the Economy Ministry foreign investments under secretary in a detailed report on foreign investment in Argentina.

The report points out that on 28 August 1976, the date the foreign investment law was approved, investment amounted to \$4,583,834,408, divided among 1,693 investors and 1,456 recipient enterprises. In March 1977, 300 investors in the country reported that reinvestments amounted to \$144 million. During the 12-month period, 77 new foreign investments were approved, 14 by the executive branch and 63 by the foreign investments under secretary.

BRIEFS

SORGHUM TO JAPAN--Buenos Aires, 28 Mar--It was reported here today that the Argentine Federation of Agrarian Cooperatives and the Association of Argentine Cooperatives signed an agreement with two similar Japanese entities for the sale of 400,000 tons of sorghum from the 1977-78 harvest. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1256 GMT 28 Mar 78 PY]

REPORTAGE, COMMENTARY ON 9 JULY ELECTIONS

Banzer Discusses Elections

PY050348Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2010 GMT 4 Apr 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 4 Apr--Bolivian President Gen Hugo Banzer today reiterated that "the upcoming national elections will be free and the government will respect the results, no matter what they may be." Banzer made this statement to a local weekly called BOLIVIAN NEWS, which is published in English and whose first edition appeared today.

Banzer gave three main reasons for the call to general elections made by the military government, the first to be held in the country since 1966:

1. The military institutions desire to hand over political responsibility to civilian politicians.
2. The desire for a democratic Bolivian state and for citizens to directly elect their highest representatives.
3. To insure rotation in the republic's political leadership.

Banzer added: "There is political passion in all electoral campaigns, but the one now taking place in Bolivia has not registered any violent events, except some excesses by politicians in written and oral declarations." "I hope that the next Bolivian president, chosen in the next elections, will continue the work of our government and will know how to continue leading the country in order, peace and work," he added. Finally, Banzer said, "accelerated economic and social development should also be one of the new president's priorities."

Military Confirms Election Date

PA051846Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1825 GMT 5 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpt] La Paz, 5 Apr (LATIN)--The Bolivian Armed Forces confirmed today that the general elections planned for the return of the country to its institutional system will be held on 9 July. The statement was released at the end of the 3-day meeting of the commanders of the armed forces, large units and military institutes of the country. In addition, the document reiterates the commanders' full support for Gen Hugo Banzer Suarez, president of the republic and supreme "exponent and leader of revolutionary nationalism." The armed forces commanders called for unity of the Bolivian people in order to "achieve the return to the sea."

Adriazola Denies Foreign Pressure

PY051505Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1305 GMT 5 Apr 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 5 Apr--Foreign Minister Oscar Adriazola indicated that he was unaware of the issue reportedly presented by the United States, the FRG, Great Britain and Venezuela regarding the Bolivian electoral process. Press reports stated that reliable officials of those four countries had stated that they would give Bolivia economic support only if elections were held. Minister Adriazola said that statements of this type represented a type of interference in our domestic matters.

PRESENCIA Speaks Against Delay

FY051533Y La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 3 Apr 78 p 3 FY

[Editorial: "Postponement of Elections?"]

[Text] Whether we like it or not, there have been many rumors going around lately regarding the possibility that the forthcoming elections may be postponed to a date much later than the one already established. These rumors about such an important matter to the Bolivian people have created noticeable concern which continues to persist despite some official explanations.

The serious situation to which we are referring concerns the fact that any substantial postponement of the elections will make people doubt both the seriousness of the government and the word of the armed forces. It would not be unusual to see these two institutions being attacked by people who believe that the postponement is a fact, whatever the type of disguise or pretext used. The government and the armed forces, if they make this decision, will be the institutions taking a moral and material risk. Under these circumstances we do not believe that they intend to make this type of decision.

It has been said that this possibility exists if the people accept it as a solution. We also believe that the people do not want the postponement of the elections. We do not believe that the people will relinquish their legitimate right to appoint their leaders. This is a right which belongs to them as the authentic representatives of sovereignty. If the people sometimes have put aside that right it has been due to extremely serious circumstances and with the understanding that exceptional circumstances do not last very long. It is not that the people cannot see the shortcomings and weaknesses of our political parties. They also know that not all of our institutions are perfect. Therefore, the best thing or at least the least bad thing is to accept the decision of the legitimate power, the people, expressing themselves through elections in which they can freely vote for the best candidates. Despite all the risks it is preferable to hold free elections than not to have this freedom, even more so if we believe that our people are not under age and do not need tutoring. If someone believes otherwise, it would be good to say so clearly.

Signs stating "no" to elections exhibited even in public gatherings have appeared. We believe that these persons, so radically opposed to the interests and dignity of the Bolivian people, do not have any right to speak in the name of the people. What they really want is to discredit the leaders and the armed forces and make them run serious risks. Any study of this fact will lead us to this conclusion. No one should be deceived about it. That is why it has been announced officially that the elections will be held.

In any case, we believe that in matters so important to the country, to its interests and to its international image, we must act without deceit. The people have the right to know the persons, groups and parties advocating the indefinite postponement of the elections. It cannot be allowed for some people, in full daylight, to agree with the elections and constitutionalization and at the same time carry out maneuvers against the same objectives. If there are people who do not want the elections on an established date, the best thing for them is to clearly say so without reservations; otherwise, it would seem that they do not want elections under one government but would like them under another, or that a quick democratization is good in some cases but undesirable in others.

EL DIARIO Comments

PY052127Y La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 1 Apr 78 p 2 PY

[Editorial: "No to a Coup d'Etat"]

[Text] It is unfortunate that during the last few days there has been an intensive campaign of rumors to mislead and confuse the people. It seems that the objective of those who are determined to spread these rumors is to raise a smokescreen to disrupt a normal electoral process and then immediately carry out already planned actions. These absurd and carefully planned rumors are exaggerated as they pass from person to person. Certain persons disguised as "well-informed" sources are in charge of spreading rumors to their friends. When the mass media get versions of these rumors they do not hesitate to spread them and also change them. This is how a subtle and completely ill-intentioned plot is planned.

One does not need to be a fortuneteller to know where all this gossip starts. It is obvious that it comes from extremist groups of the right and left. On one hand, fascism's chances within a democracy are weak, because the people have flagrantly repudiated this trend. This is why the fascists have concluded that the only alternative is to gamble on a conspiracy. Since this campaign is being carried out at the very same time as the break in relations with the cunning invader of 1879, this seems to suggest a synchronization with the present disagreement with the Pinochetism that is in force in Chile. On the other hand, the left represents a very small minority and one of its groups has already announced an armed revolt.

Only those who lack popular support are interested in blocking the elections--in other words, only those lacking the genuine national spirit, those who are interested in installing any kind of dictatorship, whatever its ideology.

The Bolivian people are fully convinced that the armed forces will guarantee and verify the election so that it will produce genuine government leaders having true popular support, which will result in the establishment of a true democracy in the political, economic and social sense. This is an unavoidable commitment to both the Bolivian people and foreigners, because even the prestige of the Bolivian people is at stake in these elections.

Any action which would modify the present election plan such as the suspension, postponement or temporary delay of the elections would cause harmful and unforeseen consequences to the destiny of the nation. Wisdom and good sense have to reign in the present situation. Think first about Bolivia and nothing but Bolivia, so that a government--supported by the Bolivian majority--can assume its functions with the appropriate support and consequently can adopt the most appropriate measures to achieve national development. Furthermore, a coup d'etat would have irreparable consequences. The people must consider the risks which such action would entail. In addition, the last few years have shown that Bolivia is not fertile ground anymore for this kind of adventure, which is part of history. The common people want peace, tranquillity and work. And if a coup succeeded it would face the opposition of the entire nation, without exception.

The aspiration of establishing a civilized democracy in Bolivia, the desire to make a truly autonomous country out of Bolivia, where there is respect for the individual and human rights--including freedom of expression--cannot be trampled on. Those who try to block this genuine aspiration will suffer a crushing experience.

GOVERNMENT CHARGES TIN SALES TIED TO U.S. POLITICS

PY051400Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1145 GMT 5 Apr 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 5 Apr--The United States will sell part of its strategic tin reserves for reasons of domestic policy, rather than out of interest in solving a problem of world trade, the Bolivian Government announced in La Paz on 4 April. The charge was made at a time when the price decrease of this raw material is beginning to seriously affect the Bolivian economy, which is basically supported by tin sales.

The Bolivian Mining Ministry reported that President Carter's administration agreed to trade part of the tin reserves of the General Services Administration [GSA] only for the purpose of obtaining a favorable vote from the senators of the state of Arizona on the issue of approval of the Panama Canal treaty. The Bolivian Mining Ministry also stated that President Carter will solve a U.S. domestic problem by sacrificing a people.

On Tuesday the price of tin decreased to \$4.83 per fine pound, the most unfavorable quotation for producers in the last few months.

It was officially reported in La Paz that tin production is beginning to be unprofitable. The production cost is higher than the price on the international market.

General Hugo Banzer's military government reasserted its denunciation of economic aggression against the Bolivian people, mentioning the announced sale of 45,000 long tons of tin from the GSA reserves.

The La Paz government also charged President Carter's administration with assaulting the human rights of the Bolivian people by plotting against its trade and forcing it to reduce its domestic development plans. It is the first time in about 6 years that the Bolivian government has directly confronted the Washington government.

BRIEFS

MINERS DEMAND IMPROVEMENTS--La Paz, 3 Apr--About 5,000 miners of the Siglo XX District have demanded that the government modernize their working conditions, it was reported here today. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1539 GMT 3 Apr 78 PY]

FRENCH FINANCIAL COMMISSION--A French financial commission arrived last night in La Paz from Asuncion, Paraguay. The group will stay in Bolivia for several days to promote French investments. They will also visit Cochabamba and Santa Cruz de la Sierva. [La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 1130 GMT 4 Apr 78 PY]

CANADIAN DELEGATION ARRIVES--A Canadian Agency for International Development delegation has arrived in La Paz to discuss technical and financial cooperation with Bolivian officials. The financial cooperation will be similar to the aid offered by the World Bank and the IDB. This agency is initiating in developing countries a nonrefundable financing program for equipment, materials, preinvestment studies and soft loans to industries. The members of the Canadian delegation will meet with World Bank consultative representatives, now meeting in La Paz, to harmonize the development projects. [La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 3 Apr 78 PY]

GEISEL EXPLAINS AFRICAN POLICY TO CARTER

PY050156Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 4 Apr 78 p 7 PY

[By Carlos Conde]

[Text] Brasilia--During the first meeting he held with President Geisel at Planalto Palace upon his arrival in Brazil, President Carter praised Brazilian policy toward Africa. He was then told that there was no reason--for the time being--to believe that Brazil will change this policy. The U.S. President said that the historical roots linking Brazil with Africa and its present policy toward that continent represent "factors of equilibrium" for the solution of African conflicts.

Carter also regarded as "very constructive" the Brazilian Government's position on the Middle East conflict. He acknowledged that Brazil still cannot directly influence this conflict, but mentioned two aspects of the Brazilian position which he considered positive, that is, that Israel must return all territory occupied through force and the recognition of a Palestinian homeland, which are the basic factors for achieving peace. Only a minor part of the Geisel-Carter talks was devoted to the Israeli-Arab conflict, since Brazil has a far greater diplomatic presence in Africa.

President Geisel briefed Carter on the major points of the Brazilian position on Africa, just as Foreign Minister Azeredo da Silveira briefed Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. Geisel said that African problems must be solved primarily by Africans, but without disregarding any negotiation which could be conducted by countries having influence in that area, such as the United States, Great Britain and France.

Brazilian policy emphasizes the need to regain the confidence of African countries, a confidence which had been heavily undermined through the long period of support for Portuguese colonialism. With this objective in mind, Brazil has been making many diplomatic moves both in Africa and within international organizations. Therefore, Brazil will not take any action which could jeopardize the growing African confidence it has gained slowly and with difficulty. Brazil has no political, military or economic power to act directly in African conflicts, but even if it had it would not do so. The recommended strategy, based on military and diplomatic evaluations, is to cooperate in the search for peace, to let Africans solve their own domestic problems and to refrain from contributing to "replacing old colonialisms."

The superpowers and the leading, old settlers of Africa like Great Britain and France, must directly contribute to solving the African conflict since it has now become an international issue. Yet, this is not the case with Brazil. Brazil will not "pull the chestnuts out of the fire" on behalf of anyone in Africa. That is, the former settlers and the superpowers themselves will have to solve those problems they created in Africa, not someone else in their name. The limits of the Brazilian position are, for the time being, marked by its condemnation of both colonialism and racism and by the defense of black majority governments. Although Brazil will continue to maintain the criticism it leveled against Rhodesia at the United Nations over the invasion of Mozambique, it will not go beyond this.

Geisel told Carter that since Brazil believes in the nationalism of African countries, it does not believe that a mere "replacement of colonialism" will take place. Geisel was referring directly to the Soviet-Cuban involvement in several African nations, especially in Angola and Ethiopia. Geisel himself had condemned this interference earlier at press conferences he held during the recent visits he made to Mexico and the FRG.

Yet he does not believe that British, French, Belgian, Netherlands and Portuguese colonialism will now be replaced by a Moscow-Havana domination. Whether solicited or not, the Soviet-Cuban presence in Africa will be temporary and will end as soon as the African domestic reasons which prompted this presence disappear.

Although Geisel did not expressly tell Carter anything, it became clear that the United States should not depend on Brazil for any initiative calling for either direct or indirect intervention in Africa. Although the Brazilian Government has been closely following Soviet and Cuban actions in several African countries, and despite its awareness of the possible consequences of these actions, it will not change its present position.

It was tacitly implied in the Carter-Geisel talks that the Brazilian Government will reject any foreign or domestic appeal calling for coercive actions in Africa. Although Brazil will not act unilaterally, it believes that it is not its responsibility to promote hemispheric action in this regard. Since the leadership of the Western world is in the hands of the United States, it is this country which must take initiatives. Yet, given the present situation in Africa, Brazil would not support any solution based on force. Nor will Brazilian diplomacy agree to conduct peaceful negotiations designed to do away with "the inalienable responsibility of all African peoples and nations to solve their present conflicts."

Both President Carter and Secretary of State Vance insisted on "furthering consultations" with Brazil regarding Africa and on "coordinating their positions." This suggestion was accepted in principle as a contribution to aid in solving African conflicts. Yet, both Geisel and Azeredo told their U.S. counterparts that any Brazilian-U.S. agreement in this respect will have to be framed within the Brazilian position.

Brazil considers that it will be useful to continue direct consultations at presidential level, similar to those held on the occasion of President Carter's visit. It is also believed that the two countries could "coordinate their positions," but primarily in a global sense, to defend the interests of the Western world, provided these interests do not clash with Brazilian interests, do not seek to replace one colonialism with another, and do not result in further interventions in Africa.

RUMORS ON RENEGOTIATION OF NUCLEAR PACT WITH U.S. DENIED

PY060126Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 5 Apr 78 p 3 PY

[Excerpt] Brasilia--Itamaraty denied yesterday that the Brazilian Government has been informed by the U.S. Government about the possibility of renegotiating the nuclear agreement signed between the two countries in 1972. According to Itamaraty spokesman Luiz Felipe Lampreia, internal law cannot affect an international agreement unless a request is made to either renegotiate or amend the agreement. He noted that no such request has been made to Brazil.

BRAZIL'S ABILITY TO IMPLEMENT NUCLEAR PACT WORKS FRG

PY050245Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 3 Apr 78 p 3 PY

[By correspondent Ricardo Kotscho]

[Excerpts] Bonn--Geisel to Bonn, Carter to Brasilia, Christopher to Hamburg, and now Genscher to Washington--the comings and goings have been going on for the past 30 days.

However, at least according to official reports, the FRG Foreign Ministry considers all this to be nothing more than coincidence. It states that every one of these trips had been scheduled long in advance and there is no relation between them.

Schmidt is aware that at any moment a decision from Washington could stop all German nuclear reactors. Or it would make the deutschemark so expensive that FRG products would become inaccessible to buyers. Having a country which has been harassed by strikes and which has the highest unemployment rates of the past 20 years, with his power in parliament undermined by successive scandals related to security organizations, Schmidt may be ready to take all kinds of risks--except economic retaliation by the United States.

However, the problems with Washington--which is after all the most important point of the [FRG, United States, and Brazil] triangle--are not the only issues causing the concern recently shown by the FRG officials responsible for implementation of the FRG-Brazilian nuclear accord. Like Bonn diplomats, the technicians also show that there are two sides of the coin: One is the official version of formal optimism and the other, which is quite different, is revealed in off-the-record, informal talks.

The degree of concern can be gaged by the kind of questions which FRG technocrats ask Brazilian journalists at luncheons and dinners in Bonn. The official nomination of General Figueiredo as the next president of the nation brought, at first, a certain feeling of relief because it meant that Geisel's type of government would continue. However, internal conflicts caused by this nomination led important sectors of the Bonn government to develop a more far-sighted view of the implementation of the accord with Brazil.

Even if General Figueiredo were to fulfill the established 6 years of his office term without any significant institutional changes, the Germans are beginning to wonder what would happen afterward should roles be reversed, placing the current opposition in power. This may explain why Willy Brandt wanted to know the position of Leonel Brizola [former governor and congressman now in exile] toward the nuclear accord during the two meetings he held with him in the past few weeks.

It is also being asked whether Delfim Netto will be governor of Sao Paulo and to what extent he will be able to lead an opposition, allegedly existing within Sao Paulo power company, ELETROBRAS, and business sectors, against certain aspects of the nuclear accord with the FRG.

Thus, the questions are not restricted to Brazil's political situation and its possible ramifications. There are more pressing matters--besides the problems with the United States and the Netherlands--which no longer allow the Germans to talk about the nuclear accord as optimistically as they did a few months ago. These problems have to do with the transference of technology and the capability of Brazil's economy to cover the overall costs of the agreement. Out of every four slots allocated to Brazil for the training of nuclear technicians and engineers, only one is used. Recent charges of shortcomings in the security system at the Angra I nuclear plant are recalled by the Germans whenever they discuss the problems of trained manpower and Brazil's shortcomings in this area. The fact is that without trained manpower, how can the transference projects provided for by the accord be implemented?

Whatever Brazilian officials discuss regarding possible changes in the agreement in view of the difficult economic situation the country is experiencing swiftly reaches the ears of the Bonn partners.

In this manner, the mere possibility that Brazil may not be able to purchase the eight reactors scheduled to be installed before 1990 and that it may have to reshuffle the deadlines of its nuclear program on the basis of its current economic situation only helps to strengthen the skepticism shown from the very beginning by certain sectors of the FRG Research and Technology Ministry. At the same time the FRG's economic recession will not allow, at least for some time, a larger participation of FRG capital in the development of Brazil's nuclear projects.

FIGUEIREDO PROMISES FEW POLITICAL CONCESSIONS

FY032347Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1532 GMT 3 Apr 78 FY

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 3 Apr--Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo, the man who has been named to replace the current Brazilian president, Gen Ernesto Geisel, remarked here today that the political opening in Brazil will include "very few concessions" at the beginning.

The future Brazilian president referred to the "probability" of certain reforms in November 1978, but he believes that any type of concession always leads to another, creating "a snowball."

During an interview with the weekly ISTO E, he indicated that "if you give way to one claim, another emerges immediately."

Although the November legislative elections must "open a larger horizon," Figueiredo repeated his warning regarding a victory of the opposition, which is legally represented by the Brazilian Democratic Movement [MDB].

The general explained that "a National Renewal Alliance [ARENA] (government party) victory would help us in seeking an opening," because it would help to overcome an important obstacle, leaving those who oppose this opening without a base.

He indicated that if to the contrary the MDB wins, it would be much easier for the MDB to criticize and make demands, and it would be easy for the other side to justify a reaction contrary to reforms.

"The situation would be marked by greater agitation, and with more agitation there would be less relaxation," he asserted.

The future Brazilian president then criticized the church for having assumed the right to take on a political role, even drafting a statement on national security.

He said: "From this viewpoint I would believe it natural for the high command to meet and draft a document on theology."

Figueiredo also criticized those who grant intellectuals in general the "authority to dictate political regulations and ideas."

Figueiredo, who is director of the National Intelligence Services (SNI), also criticized the foreign press, which he termed at times an "executioner."

"Nobody is interested in knowing whether at any time during my life I have given the order for a person's detention or freedom. I have never done so. This is not the SNI's job, since it is not an organization which implements action. Its function is to inform the government about everything the government wishes to know in the political, economic and psychosocial, etc sectors," he added.

Some Brazilian bishops were concerned by Figueiredo's remarks on the work of the church. Msgr Helder Camara, archbishop of Olinda and Recife, interpreting the feelings of some of his colleagues, asserted that national security is of interest to all Brazilians and is not the exclusive responsibility of the high command. In any case, according to these prelates, the church should not limit itself to religion because it has the duty of "penetrating human reality as a whole and judging history's events in light of the and respect for the individual."

ARENA REBUTS MAGALHAES PINTO'S ACCUSATIONS

PY312156Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 29 Mar 78 p 3 PY

[National Renewal Alliance of ARENA official note in reply to accusations against ARENA convention by Senator Magalhaes Pinto, issued in Brasilia on 28 March]

[Text] Nobody was surprised by Senator Magalhaes Pinto's decision which he announced yesterday. Everybody was expecting it. He needed to grasp a pretext to evade the verdict of the convention in which the scarcity of votes for his candidacy would have shown the weakness of his political and party leadership. In fact, Senator Magalhaes ostensibly has been trying all this time to get his nomination as presidential candidate directly from President Geisel; staying away from his party, never working within his party, always avoiding normal proselytizing efforts among his party colleagues, and deliberately ignoring his party's National Directorate, which he never consulted. He chose to resort to the media--newspapers, television and radio--and to limit his contacts to small groups to whom he delivered his propaganda, disregarding through his ignorance what the law prescribes on the matter of presidential succession. His effort was initially directed at influencing President Geisel's decision, relying on a distorted evaluation of the country's politico-military situation.

Once Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo was nominated, Senator Magalhaes Pinto affirmed his intention to run for the nation's presidency as a candidate for ARENA. Without the necessary party support, which he only held in one region [Minas Gerais], it was expected that he would change his tactics and bring his struggle among his colleagues within the party. A natural expectation was thus created for an intense mobilization within ARENA, but that mobilization never materialized.

In another of his miscalculations, he certainly anticipated that bureaucratic or legal obstacles would be thrown at him to prevent him from vying for a nomination within the party, thus adopting the comfortable position of being a victim. He anticipated in vain, because ARENA was not going to act that way since the party had nothing to lose with the infighting promoted by Senator Magalhaes Pinto and he, in turn, had nothing to gain, not even the minimum number of votes to justify his old and obsessive ambition.

Thus Magalhaes Pinto remained subdued, doing nothing but granting almost daily interviews to newspapers and televisions. In these interviews, criticism of the party and the expedient of repeated announcements of support which never materialized--just to break their monotony--were never lacking. Struggling in a vacuum, Magalhaes promised to issue a platform which turned out to be nothing more than a pamphlet containing borrowed ideas. His pamphlet condemned the succession process from which he had expected to benefit; it called for a broad amnesty which he had previously condemned; it repudiated a revolution which he had supported for 14 years without compunction.

As president of the Senate, nominated by President Geisel and elected by ARENA votes, he always gave the classic answers to reporters who asked him what he thought of revolutionary punishment: "This results from a revolutionary act, so I do not discuss them."

Running out of options, he now tries to create scandal, mixing slander with his disbelief in his own merit, to keep his self-appointed candidacy away from his party and outside the law: yesterday for lack of support and today because he was abandoned by those who chose another path. It is untrue that the convention delegates will come to the convention with their hands tied by previously accepted obligations. Once President Geisel, who is honorary ARENA president, picked Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo as presidential candidate, all party organizations and members accepted the submission of his name to the ARENA convention where he would be appointed as the official candidate. The acceptance which has been voiced does not invalidate the 8-9 April party convention, because the law not merely permits but rather rules that candidates for party positions be presented in ordinary conventions (where elections are conducted by secret ballot also), by a minimum number of publicly sponsored delegates, without stipulating a maximum number. If any previous public sponsorship of candidates by delegates could be considered as a breach of vote secrecy, obviously the law would not have made mandatory the requirement that a candidate must have a minimum number of public sponsors. This is how Article 47 reads: "The registration of each ticket of candidates and alternates for the National Directorate must be requested in writing to the national executive commission not later than 20 days before the convention by a minimum number of 30 convention delegates."

Senator Magalhaes's accusation, as can be seen, turns against the organic party law itself. ARENA has done nothing other than to comply with it. Therefore, Magalhaes's accusation that "convention delegates will attend the convention bound by written commitments" is invalid and unwarranted. In adopting the system of public sponsorship, the law intends to guarantee that each candidate has the minimum representation, so that he may participate in party decisions and directorates activities to the extent warranted by the strength of his support. The law is based on the premise that conventions should be preceded by an advance mobilization through debates and understanding among party members and between party leaders and party members. The important point is to insure the secrecy of the vote at the proper time. To bring up the question of vote secrecy for the purpose of silencing public support is equivalent to denying the legitimacy of electoral propaganda and vote canvassing.

On more than one occasion during his campaign, Senator Magalhaes Pinto supported the above-mentioned position that only the voting had to be secret. Now he turns his back on that position. And Senator Magalhaes Pinto is wrong when he says that President Geisel is dividing Brazilians. Once again he does not see himself or others in the correct perspective, expressing disbelief in the critical judgment of Brazilians. The wavering in Magalhaes Pinto's behavior will not divide ARENA or the country.

Senator Magalhaes Pinto is facing a vacuum, not just because he refuses to attend the convention but because his candidacy has fizzled out.

Finally, we vehemently disagree with the illustrious senator when he pretentiously tells the people that "the democratic sentiment has been revived." This sentiment never died and it has always been alive in the consciences of all Brazilians. Therefore, it will not need to be revived by obvious resentments or well-known ambitions.

PINOCHET ADDRESSES NATION ON VARIETY OF SUBJECTS

'Transition Phase' Announced

FY060155Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0145 GMT 6 Apr 78 FY

[Text] Santiago, Chile 5 Apr--Chilean President Augusto Pinochet reasserted tonight that the institutional process will be carried out through a transition phase which will follow the current stage of recovery. He indicated that "specific formulas for each stage are subject to adjustment in line with circumstances, but the basic guidelines will not be changed without good reason."

The president made this statement over a national radio and television network. He also indicated that "the key to the plan is gradual progress toward final institutionalization through a transition phase which will follow the current stage of recovery." Pinochet emphasized that "the object is to get away from opposing but equally harmful extremes: stagnation, which builds up pressures, and haste, which brings upheavals worse than those which the country experienced during the Marxist government."

He said that the essence of political power must "remain in the hands of the armed forces and the forces of order, but its formal exercise must be broadly shared with the civilians, who will thus move from cooperation to participation." Pinochet explained that at the same time "all the state bodies provided for the final institutionalization must be put into operation in accordance with the rules and guidelines which will bring them closer to the role which they will have to play in the last stage, although during the transition period the bodies which will exercise political power will not be generated through elections."

Pinochet emphasized that "the need for this transition period stems from the evolution which all political processes that aim to be peaceful and lasting must follow." The chief of state indicated that the step "toward the transition period must involve the creation of a congress which will have one or two chambers, according to the result of studies underway. However, during the transition stage the majority of the congressmen, who in the fully institutional stage will be chosen by the people's vote, will be appointed by the government."

Pinochet also announced that "the clear-cut ideas we have now and the progress of the committee in charge of conducting the appropriate studies have led the government to hasten the conclusion and the achievement of a full and final constitutionality." Pinochet indicated that the committee which is studying the new constitution has been asked to present its proposals and ideas for the future constitution before 21 May. Once he studies it, he will send it to the Council of State, which is advising him. The deadline for drawing up the new constitution is 31 December. "Therefore, should the final text be approved by the government junta, it will be submitted to a plebiscite, thus beginning the transition period."

Denounces Defamatory 'Campaign'

PA060029Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2345 GMT 5 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 5 Apr (LATIN)--President Augusto Pinochet tonight charged that there is an international campaign to create a "so-called artificial sense of instability in the government."

Speaking to the country over a national radio and television network, the Chilean president emphasized that "in their infamy they have even pretended to hold the government responsible for the condemnable murder of Orlando Letelier." He said that this campaign is orchestrated from abroad in complicity with domestic political opponents who, "without hesitating to use the vilest methods for their wretched purposes, are trying to connect completely distinct international situations and to internationally magnify our problems."

The president said that international public opinion has been able to verify how the government has fully cooperated in the search for the facts. He reaffirmed that he will continue that policy in order "to contribute to the full determination of the truth and the subsequent punishment deserved by those found guilty, regardless of their position or nationality, because the name and honor of Chile and its rulers cannot be soiled by any shadow of a doubt. Therefore, I publicly and solemnly challenge those who are today prejudging us to recognize the decision which the courts will make and publicize out complete innocence--which the decision will reflect--with the same passion which they employ today in spreading rumors and lies."

The murder of Letelier, which occurred in Washington 2 years ago, is now being investigated by U.S. justice officials who this week questioned two persons here who went to the United States with official Chilean passports 1 month before the crime, which occurred on 21 September 1976.

Pardons, Commutations Announced

PA060040Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2352 GMT 5 Apr 78 P

[Excerpt] Santiago, Chile, 5 Apr (LATIN)--President Augusto Pinochet announced tonight that he will grant a pardon or commute to exile the prison sentences of all persons now under sentence by military courts. In a speech broadcast by radio and television to the entire nation he said that the measure will benefit all those sentenced for crimes against the security of the state both prior to or following 11 September 1973.

He added that although the term political prisoner is "completely inappropriate in referring to persons legally sentenced for a crime, the pardon or commutation, inspired for humanitarian reasons, will also serve, starting now, to prevent people from saying that in Chile there are persons deprived of their freedom for past political actions."

The president expressed the hope that the government's decision will be interpreted as an expression of good will and not of weakness "because whomever believes this risks the danger of bearing the full weight of the law."

Last week, former Vice President of the Chilean Central Bank and a member of the Chilean Socialist Party Carlos Lazo Fritas left the country, after his sentence of 31 years in prison was commuted to 20 years in exile. Lazo left for France to join his family.

Borders Discussed

PA060114Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0004 GMT 6 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 5 Apr (LATIN)--President Augusto Pinochet said tonight that Chile must certainly respond "to the false image of our situation that international communism and its fellow travelers esconced in the free world are carefully peddling by clearly defining and vigorously carrying out our foreign policy objectives."

In a 30-minute speech broadcast to the nation over radio and television, the president said that this is the purpose of the reorganization of the foreign service and an effort to establish greater professionalism, efficiency and flexibility in the service.

Without mentioning names, Pinochet referred to relations with Argentina and Bolivia. "Recently we have experienced difficulties of a highly varied nature and origin with two sister countries with common borders," he said.

Bolivia broke off diplomatic relations with Chile last month and Argentina and Chile are involved in a border conflict over the Beagle Channel. "Chile sincerely deplores these situations, for which it claims no responsibility. It does so without denying the fraternal ties and the Americanistic mission which we jointly profess," said Pinochet. He added that as a peace-loving nation Chile believes that the law is the only way to maintain a civilized coexistence and understands that faithful respect for international treaties is an essential part of every legal system.

In an apparent reference to Britain's decision which gave Chile sovereignty over three islands in the Beagle Channel and the present bilateral talks, the president said: "The defense of our legitimate legal rights is not and will not be an obstacle to our efforts to seek a friendly solution to the present difficulties with our neighbors."

GOVERNMENT WILL ALLOW MORE EXILES TO RETURN

PY060300Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0045 GMT 6 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 5 Apr--The Chilean Government admitted today that other Chilean exiles will be able to return to the country, following the example of Christian Democratic leader Jaime Castillo.

Minister Secretary General of Government Rene Vidal stated today that the government is ready to take into consideration "the cases of persons who may want to submit the appropriate request" to return to the country. In this regard he mentioned that Decree Law 81 of the military junta, which establishes the procedure for returning to the country, is in effect. However, General Vidal cautioned that with regard to political activities the "rules of the game are clear." Chilean political parties have been banned or in recess ever since the military junta headed by Gen Augusto Pinochet took power in September 1973.

Sources close to the Christian Democratic Party, a group which was disbanded by the government 2 years ago, were very satisfied with today's announcement. The sources indicated that among the exiles who may take advantage of this offer are former President Bernardo Leighton and some former congressmen.

In accordance with the rules, Chileans who return from exile must sign a document promising to follow certain domestic "regulations which guarantee the tranquillity of the citizens," said Vidal.

The former Chilean president and founder of the Chilean Christian Democratic Party, Bernardo Leighton, sought voluntary asylum in Rome 4 years ago. In view of his criticism of the military junta, the government forbade him to return to Chile in October 1974. According to local sources, former congressmen Renan Fuentealba, Eugenio Velasco and Claudio Huepe, among other exiles, may return to the country, besides Leighton.

DEFENSE MINISTER WRITES U.S. ENVOY ON DRUG ISSUE

PA050329Y Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 Apr 78 PA

[Text] National Defense Minister Gen Abraham Vicente Varon Valencia today strongly criticized the U.S. news services and rejected reports carried by newspapers implicating him in drug trafficking. In a long letter addressed to U.S. Ambassador Diego Asencio, General Varon said:

As you are aware, the unfounded and unconfirmed report spread by your government's information services [los organismos de informacion de su gobierno] referring to a recommendation that the national defense minister had made in the case of Norberto Moreno Carballo is absolutely false.

It was all a misunderstanding because the note was written on a sheet of paper with the National Defense Ministry letterhead which led people to believe that the national defense minister was involved.

I think I have the right to ask, in view of these blunders, about the moral character of those employed by your government's intelligence and information services. Do they have any ethical principles? Are they professionally qualified to carry out such an important job? Has your government investigated them? Are they working merely for money or is there some concealed motive behind their effort to smear the dignity of the Colombian Government with such false imputations against several ministers in an obviously irresponsible act which your government has accepted and shared?

SENATE PROTESTS DRUG TRAFFICKING CHARGES

PA051255Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0323 GMT 5 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpts] Bogota, 4 Apr (LATIN)--The Colombian Senate protested today against U.S. news reports which "maliciously and perversely" implicated a presidential candidate and two cabinet ministers in drug trafficking.

Tonight, the Senate unanimously approved a resolution in which it expressed its will to cooperate with the Colombian Government "in the struggle against new kinds of crimes which are financed abroad."

In today's resolution the Senate described the U.S. news reports as biased and stated that they attack the international prestige of the country "by maliciously and perversely implicating prominent personalities who are an honor to the nation."

ELN COMMUNIQUE ANSWERS CANDIDATE'S TRUCE OFFER

PA031820Y Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 29 Mar 78 pp 1A, 5A PA

[Communique issued by the National Liberation Army from an undisclosed location in Colombia, March 1978]

[Text] This is the stand adopted by the National Liberation Army [ELN] with respect to the proposals made by candidate Belisario Betancur, the so-called national candidate, a candidate who represents a purely reactionary sector and is running against another puppet who is a faithful representative of the oligarchic castes of shadowy transnational interests. Betancur has been loudly voicing the following opinion:

Subversion is represented in all its objective parts by malnutrition, illiteracy and health and sanitation problems.

Betancur says that as long as true motives for subversion exist, the armies--which are the majority [que son mayoria], allegedly having the best opportunities, more logistical support and every means of buying off the people's consciences and so forth, can fire night and day, kill a man every day--will not be able to do away with the subjective factor, that is to say, those of us who have risen up in arms, because another will replace each one who falls. [sentence as published]

This is what Mr Betancur says. The ELN is aware of this stand and especially aware that it is the opinion of one of the groups into which the oligarchy and imperialism have divided the Colombian people. We doubt the sincerity of this position. Are the high military commands, the armed branch of the subversive factors he mentioned, in agreement with Betancur? Would the plutocracy be willing to support an action which affects its class interests? Would the church, the eternal ally of the exploiters, view with pleasure the elimination of ignorance?

Our answer to these questions is a resounding no, which requires no explanation because it is self-evident.

Whether Belisario wants to or not, very soon and by the only means possible--our armed struggle and the people who in the past elections decapitated the present corrupt political class--the factors of subversion as he stated them will be eliminated totally and forever.

We hope that during his administration, as could be deduced from his speeches, he will not use the army and its gringo mercenaries to try to eliminate malnutrition, illiteracy and poor health conditions.

In the very unlikely case that he is able to finish his 4 years of government--since the people and its armed fronts may take power or U.S. imperialism supported by its allies may overthrow him--we say that if in 4 years he has been able to eliminate what the Creole oligarchy has maintained for the past 150 years, he can be sure that we will be the first to lay down our arms because a popular democracy will have been established.

With our Commander Fabio Vasquez Castano and the glorious Commander Camilo Torres we repeat: Always forward, not a step back, and what must be will be.

ELN, March 1978, from somewhere in Colombia

MERCHANT MARINE UNION APPROVES BOYCOTT AGAINST NICARAGUA

PA311325Y Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish 2330 GMT 30 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--The Colombian Merchant Marine Union today decreed a boycott against merchandise coming from and going to Nicaragua in repudiation of Anastasio Somoza's regime, it was learned this afternoon. Union spokesmen said that their organization will protest the abuses that the Nicaraguan Government is committing against workers and will carry out the boycott in compliance with the international campaign being waged by merchant marine unions. The boycott will be carried out in all Colombian ports. Its duration was not established.

Meanwhile, the directors of Colombian ports abstained from making any comments in regard to the decision of the Merchant Marine Union.

GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAYS ORDER WILL BE MAINTAINED

PA051539Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 5 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpts] The government has categorically denied that the government and finance ministers have resigned and has announced that it will take measures to maintain order in the country.

Rear Adm Victor Garces, government spokesman and secretary-general of public administration, announced that police protection will be given to passenger buses on request from bus owners. The government spokesman firmly warned during a news conference that any person causing damage to any property will have to pay for the damage. Garces said that the bus fare increase is not the result of a whim but the result of a technical study.

Police authorities confirmed after 1800 yesterday that 128 students have been arrested. This means that no less than 200 demonstrators were taken to various police stations. Pichincha Police Chief Julio Rojas announced that higher authorities have decided that those arrested must pay a fine of 10,000 sucres as a result of the damage they caused.

Cabinet Crisis Denied

PA060424Y Quito Radio Cadena Nacional Ecuatorian in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 Apr 78 PA

[Text] The secretary general of public administration, Rear Adm Victor Hugo Garces Pozo, has reaffirmed that the state's legal reorganization plan will be implemented. Commenting on statements made by President of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal Manuel Benjamin Carrion, who said that if the July elections fail it will not be through the fault of the tribunal, Garces Pozo said that the government's actions are the best guarantee for the continuation and confirmation of the plan because they are specific actions toward that end. He said that the financing of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal and its actions are an additional guarantee. In conclusion he said that another guarantee is the civic mobilization of the people who have [words indistinct] supporters to the political parties and all this is the best action the people could take.

Garces Pozo said that there will be no cabinet crisis and that the Supreme Government Council has not even considered changing ministers. He made the statement in reply to rumors that some ministers, including military cabinet ministers who are on active duty, will be resigning. He noted that the latter cannot resign but can simply be removed. In denying the possibility of a cabinet crisis as reported by a Guayaquil newspaper, citing specifically the removal of the government and finance ministers, Bolivar Jarrin and Santiago Sevilla respectively, Garces Pozo said that they are misguided rumors and urged the press not to publish such reports because they cause unrest in the country. He reaffirmed that the cabinet ministers will stay in the Supreme Government Council until power is surrendered [to a civilian government], unless some unforeseen event occurs.

LEFTIST BROAD FRONT WEAKENED BY WITHDRAWAL

PA301518Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 30 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Apparently, the leftwing broad front, instead of gaining strength and consolidating its position, has been weakened in the past few hours. This can be deduced from the attitude adopted by one of the members of the front's national executive council, Dr Milton Alaya Ormaza, who had been mentioned as a precandidate for the presidency of the republic by members of the front.

Alaya Ormaza has decided to withdraw from the group and is accusing its members of dedicating themselves to perpetual discussions full of misgivings and irreconcilable positions.

[begin Alaya Ormaza recording] I have decided to irrevocably separate myself from the leftwing broad front. Today I sent a note to Dr Benjamin Carrion, who is the president of the proleftist unity movement, announcing my decision and stating that as I see it, the leftwing broad front has not complied with the objectives for which it was created by us. It has failed to satisfy the great hopes and aspirations put on it. Its grudges and internal dissensions and problems continue to divide leftist organizations. Under such circumstances, there is no reason for remaining in the front since it is impossible to carry out any united effort in the future [end recording]

NEW ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL MEMBERS ANNOUNCED

PA311753Y Quito Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 1210 GMT 31 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Rear Adm Victor Hugo Garces, secretary-general of public administration, has officially announced the composition of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, which is as follows: Principal members--Benjamin Carrion, Juan Isaac Lovato, Severo Espinosa Valdivieso, Luis Pachano Carrion, Rafael Arizaga Vega, Jose Baquero de la Calle, Rodrigo Alvarez; Alternates--Gonzalo Gonzalez Garcia, Federico Veintimilla, Luis Cueva Sotomayor, Jose Guerrero Bermudez, Luis Andrade Nieto, Jose Jaramillo Hidalgo and Atahualpa Martinez Rosero.

The government, through its secretary-general of public administration has denied any intention to make changes in the law on elections and political parties and also denied the existence of a cabinet crisis. There is no truth to this, Rear Admiral Garces said in reference to rumors spread by various communications media.

227 ARRESTED IN 2 DAYS OF STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS

PA060344Y Quito Radio Cadena Nacional Ecuatoriana in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpts] The police department has reported that 227 persons are under arrest as a result of the disturbances over the last 2 days caused by protests against the bus fare hike. It said that 95 percent of the arrested are university and secondary school students charged with assault and destruction of private property. The police chief has begun to try the prisoners and is imposing sentences of 7 days detention and fines ranging from 7,000 to 10,000 sucres. The money collected from fines will be used to defray the cost of the damage caused to the buses, principally as a result of rock throwing, which destroyed almost all of the windshields and windows of the buses.

Personnel of all three branches of the armed forces, especially the army, have been patrolling the streets of Quito since before dawn today to prevent further disturbances on this third day of protests against the national government for authorizing the fare increases. Trucks with uniformed personnel armed with appropriate weapons have been posted at strategic places to reinforce the police, who yesterday were unable to handle the protests.

From another quarter, parents, teachers and students have protested the failure of Education Minister Fernando Dobronski to immediately suspend classes, which caused serious problems. In addition to the absence of buses, several schools were attacked this morning for not complying with the resolution of the National Council of the Federation of Secondary School Students declaring an indefinite strike.

EXILED GEN LEONIDAS RODRIGUEZ FIGUEROA TO RETURN

PA032314Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2047 GMT 3 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 3 Apr (EFE)--Peruvian Gen Leonidas Rodriguez Figueroa, one of former President Juan Velasco Alvarado's closest collaborators, will return to Peru on the 16th of this month.

Rodriguez Figueroa, leader of the Socialist Revolutionary Party [PSR], is returning to head the party's campaign in the constituent assemble representative elections to be held next June.

The general, former director of the Peruvian National Information System during Velasco Alvarado's regime, will return accompanied by four other party leaders: Gen Arturo Valdes Palacio, Capt Manuel Vance Chacon, newsman Rafael Roncagliolo and Maria de Valdes.

Rodriguez Figueroa said that his return to Peru does not involve previous commitments or conditions. He said that his return was decided by the PSR Executive Committee and not related to the recently decreed amnesty announced by Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez' administration.

Rodriguez Figueroa heads the list of PSR candidates for the constituent assembly, the establishment of which will be the first step toward Peru's announced democratization.

The general said that the PSR will wage a preelectoral campaign based on the defense of people's rights and the establishment of a "Peruvian socialist system."

EXPRESO COMMENTS ON PCP'S ASSEMBLE CANDIDATES

PA031730Y Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 26 Mar 78 p 2 PA

[Text] For the first time since it was founded long ago, the Peruvian Communist Party [PCP] will openly run in an election. This organization, so long led by the indescribable Jorge del Prado, will bare its face, and we will be able to know how many members it has aside from the 100 candidates on its list for the constituent assemble.

Up until a short time ago, the oligarchy entrenched in the communish hierarchy maintained that traditional elections were only bourgeis practices. Now they have decided to go along with them, tacitly following the guidelines of the new "Eurocommunism" and setting aside somewhat the aggressive Stalinist line.

To better understand the communist oligarchy it is sufficient to note the first 10 names on the PCP's list of candidates: Jorge del Prado Chavez, Isidoro Gamarra Ramirez, Raul Acosta Salas, Eduardo Castillo Sanchez, Asuncion Caballero Mendez, Gustavo Spinoza Montesinos, Julian Sierra Corrales, Mario Ugarte Hurtado, Guillermo Herrera Montesinos and Eteldrita Humala Aybar. Curiously enough a tendency toward nepotism is evident. Among the 10 are an uncle and his nephew.

PRESIDENT SENDS NOTE TO NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT

PA061305Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1220 GMT 6 Apr 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, through his country's Foreign Ministry, has sent a note to the Nicaraguan Government stating that he will continue efforts for an investigation of the status of human rights in the Central American country. The note also states that Nicaragua's problems are not generated from abroad but rather are produced by the regime which has held the reins of political power since 1933.

Perez Refuses Comment

PA060300Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 5 Apr 78 PA

[Text] From the Macuto Sheraton Hotel in Caraballeda, this is Freddy Baptista reporting.

It is better to be silent in this case; let the Venezuelan people judge, President Carlos Andres Perez told this station in replying to the accusations by Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza. As everyone knows, dictator Somoza accused the Venezuelan president of conspiring against his country. The following are the statements made by President Perez:

[begin Perez recording] It is often better for a country with Venezuela's tradition, with its dignity and decency, to remain silent. I have absolutely no comment to make.

[Question] [Words indistinct] this meets all the conditions for a rupture, Mr President [words indistinct].

[Answer] The Foreign Ministry has already given the government's opinion in a communique.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] That is the obligation that comes with being a democratic country. We will continue to insist on the defense of human rights before the OAS.

[Question] [Words indistinct] regarding your conduct concerning the Nicaraguan problem.

[Answer] I can say with satisfaction that my people can feel satisfied and, what is more, proud of the manner in which I have interpreted my position as president of the republic to use the international organizations according to the documents which we have obtained to [word indistinct] the rights [words indistinct] the Latin American countries and the world. [remainder indistinct--end recording]

GUERRILLAS CAPTURED DURING ATTACK ON CAMP

PA042203Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 4 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Seven alleged guerrillas were arrested when a camp site was destroyed between Las Tejerias and (?Tiara) in Aragua State. A shootout ensued in the course of the operation, but no one was injured. After the arrest of the alleged guerrillas, several rifles, pistols and revolvers were seized. The authorities also seized several documents which are being examined by the security corps.

Those arrested have been identified as Gerardo Antonio Betancourt, whom the authorities identified as guerrilla Carlos Betancourt's son; Ruben (Jose Gomez) Tovar, 19; Mario Antonio Zambrano (Siberguo), 20; Francisco Antonio Segovia, 18; (Edmundo Lopez Guevara), [words indistinct]; (Jose Gustavo Bolivar Capriles), 18; and Bernardo Mayora, 53. All have been transferred to the military intelligence headquarters in Caracas.

Interior Minister Comments

PA042354Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 4 Apr 78 PA

[Answers by Interior Minister Octavio Lepage recorded]

[Text] Venezuelan Interior Minister Octavio Lepage has said that a type of guerrilla training center was discovered and dismantled between Tiara and Las Tejerias, Aragua State.

[Lepage] Yes, in Aragua State we discovered and arrested six persons. They were found in an unpopulated area. They were armed, and everything indicates there was some sort of training camp for future irregular activities.

[Question] What type of weapons were confiscated, Mr Minister?

[Answer] Some weapons which should not be in the hands of private citizens because they are war weapons.

[Question] How many persons were involved?

[Answer] It has not been determined whether the six persons arrested live in Caracas, which would indicate that they went there to receive some type of training.

You have just heard the statements made by Interior Minister Lepage, who said that it apparently was a subversive training center. Defense Minister Gen Fernando Paredes Bello has announced that the six persons arrested have been turned over to the military intelligence directorate.

Meanwhile, the army has initiated an operation in the mountainous area of Aragua State to guard against the possibility that some subversive cells may still exist in the area, although the possibility is very remote. The security corps operation is directed toward guaranteeing the extermination of any surviving guerrilla cells. As the news services have reported, the army recently managed to dismantle a guerrilla camp in the Tiara Mountain range. Commander Geronimo, the elder son of guerrilla Carlos Betancourt, was captured in the operation.

1979 BUDGET PROJECTS INCREASED OIL EXPORTS

PA050128Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1718 GMT 4 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpt] Caracas, 4 Apr (LATIN)--Finance Minister Luis Jose Silva Luongo has reported that the Venezuelan Government does not foresee a decrease in oil production and that it has drawn up the 1979 budget based on a daily production figure of 2.2 million barrels. The decrease in production at the beginning of this year, caused by the decrease in international demand as a result of an oil surplus, compelled the government to cut the budget by \$500 million. The minister affirmed that "oil exports have recovered, and this suggests that the January decrease was of a temporary nature."

The 1979 budget estimates revenue based on a daily production of 2,201,111 barrels, of which 2 million will be assigned to exports. The 1977 fiscal budget was also based on an income derived from a daily production of 2.2 million barrels.

ROEL EXPLAINS REFUSAL TO SEND TROOPS TO LEBANON

PA052328Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2305 GMT 5 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 5 Apr (AFP)--The Mexican Government today refused a UN request to send a contingent to join the blue helmets in southern Lebanon, the Foreign Secretariat officially announced.

In a letter sent to UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, Mexican Foreign Secretary Santiago Roel pointed out that his country is not able to send troops to Lebanon.

The request was made on 31 March and, at that time, Mexico said it would study the request for 600 men. The Foreign Secretariat communique added that although Mexico firmly supports the United Nations' actions to maintain international peace on just and equitable bases and, in this case, safeguard the integrity and political independence of Lebanon, this time, it says, the country is in no condition to answer this call.

The communique added that Mexico firmly upholds its tradition of not sending troops into any international action, adding that in this particular case the action would be very risky because the Security Council rulings on the activities of the blue helmets are very vague.

PEREZ PRAISES MEXICAN POSITION ON SALE OF GAS TO U.S.

FL052230Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2125 GMT 5 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 5 Apr (ANSA-INFORMEX)--In an interview granted to the Mexican daily EXCELSIOR and published in today's edition, Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez has praised the Mexican position of refusing to sell gas to the United States, and asserted that the transnationals are attempting to manipulate Mexican-Venezuelan relations.

Commenting editorially on these statements, the morning daily affirms that "the Mexico-Venezuela alliance is of vital interest in dealing with the most powerful countries on earth so that we may support each other and assist the less developed countries."

The Venezuelan president stated that the transnationals' attempts at manipulation have not been successful to date due to "the confidence we have in ourselves." With respect to the talks held with Mexican Foreign Secretary Santiago Roel, who is paying an official visit to Venezuela, Perez said that a broadening of bilateral relations had been discussed, affirming his belief that "we can do many things and that few have been done."

Referring to the Mexican foreign secretary's visit to Venezuela, EXCELSIOR affirms that his visit "is satisfactory because it could result in closer rapprochement--friendship between the two countries is strong and sound--between the two petroleum superpowers."

"The observations made by President Perez in connection with the transnationals and the risks they entail, as well as their technological usefulness, coincide in certain aspects with Mexico's experiences," EXCELSIOR states in closing.

RADIO MIA COMMENTATORS URGE REJECTION OF NEUTRALITY TREATY

PA042340Y Panama City Radio Mia Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Apr 78 PA

[Commentary by Ramon Pereira and Julio Ortega]

[Excerpts] [Pereira] The government is sitting on a problem; the entire country, all of us, is sitting on a problem and when I say the government I mean those who govern and the governed. However, the government led us to this situation we are facing. I am not saying that it was done in bad faith. What has been done has been done in good faith.

I do not lament or regret having gone to the polls and voted yes or having recommended a yes vote. It was a yes for what existed, but not for the amendments which have now been introduced. If the government decides to approve this...[changes thought] Notice that in his prepared speech, which has been the subject of considerable discussion, the brigadier very intelligently tried to make us help pull the chestnuts, the hot dogs, out of the fire, as the saying goes. Yes, by saying, "you have the last word, the thinking people of the country must give their opinion on this and that, in that way, with patience," they indicated that they know what the situation is.

Julito, this is our present situation. The government cannot in any way...[changes thought] If the government decides to accept this, they are going to have to take to the streets with all they have, and the coexistence they had and this matter of the National Guard being used previously to treat the people arbitrarily, that the guard received orders from the previous authorities--now it will be the present authorities who will have to do so if they decide to accept this. This government will have decided to treat the people arbitrarily even if they did not wish to do so. So, I wanted to come here this morning to say that we face a vexing decision. But, personally, given the choice between dying from hunger and becoming downtrodden through an intervention, I would rather die from hunger--this I swear to you, Julito, as a Panamanian--and struggle in some way to build our own life for ourselves without the canal; to keep what we now have in the canal; to conduct only negotiations that will increase our annuity and let that be the end of it and see how the rest can be solved later.

We will gain nothing through force either. The only thing we will achieve through force is the spilling of blood unnecessarily. It would be the blood of young people, who are the ones who take the greatest risks, and it would be an unpleasant situation for those in power who do not want in any way to use force against the people.

Then, we will have to go to the United Nations to parrot accusations and they are going to stand up and take advantage of Panama's situation. It will be used by other countries opposed to the North Americans to hurl as much mud at them as they can. But this will not solve anything or revive the dead or retrieve the blood.

[Ortega] I do not agree with holding a plebiscite because I know that the people--we talk to the people every day--they want nothing to do with a plebiscite and if one is held, most of those who cast yes votes will cast no votes because if we go to the polls, many of us who voted yes will vote no.

Ramon, I think you have said something very important and it is that the government has to adopt a decision, as a government. The people entrusted the government with negotiating a treaty and approved by a two-thirds majority a signed treaty in the plebiscite. The government only has the power to negotiate that which was approved by the people. From then on, the best way out for the government is to tell the senators: Honorable senators, we regret all the time you have wasted [Pereira interjects: "And which you have made us waste."]

We thank you for the analysis you have made of our country. It shows you know it quite well -if they knew it well there would be a better treaty--but we cannot accept this because this is not what the people approved and we will go on as we were and you can watch as we die from hunger.

At the same time that the government adopts this brave decision, it must adopt another decision: abandoning the arrogant attitude with which they have ruled us, imposing whatever they have wished on us here. So, our esteemed and dear general will have to stop meeting with the peasants under guava trees and sit at a hotel or the union club, anyplace, with capitalists and tell them: Look here, there is the issue and these are the rules of the game, let us push this country forward, we all need each other to develop this country's economy.

TORRIJOS SPEECH REAFFIRMS REVOLUTIONARY LINE

PA041200Z Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0350 GMT 3 Apr 78 PA

["Fijando el Rumbo" commentary by station director Danilo Caballero]

[Text] Omar reaffirms the revolutionary line. The speech given by Omar at the news-men's congress in Santiago, Veraguas, is undoubtedly this week's main topic. The supreme leader of our process, with his characteristically simple language, took it upon himself to dot the I's and cross the T's. He reaffirmed with deep conviction the revolutionary line of our process. Although the speech contained other important elements, such as more power for the corregimiento assembly and the upcoming elections, this station believes the analysis of the treaties and their fate were the main subjects.

Omar urged every Panamanian to think about the treaties in a responsible manner and to meditate on the scope and limitations imposed on the Torrinos-Carter treaties by the Senate amendments before we adopt a position.

In a commentary last week, Radio Libertad maintained that it was necessary to analyze the situation sensibly and impartially. As Omar pointed out in Veraguas, the interests of the fatherland and of the future generations must be placed before those of political groups and those of a personal nature.

The revolutionary government will not rush into making any negative or positive comments on the status of the treaties with the Senate amendments for two basic reasons: The first is one of method and it calls for us to wait until we receive the treaties that we, the Panamanians, approved in a plebiscite, as well as the Senate amendments. The second reason is rooted in the revolutionary process because such a stand cannot be adopted until a full consultation with the people is made in order to evaluate the position which different social forces of the country assume toward the alternatives.

This is what is simply described as a position of principle. It is good to remember this because many of those who place personal interests ahead of those of the fatherland have insistently speculated about what the general would accept or reject of the Senate's amendments to the original text of the treaties. Such a viewpoint is logical to those who consider the destiny of the country from a personal point of view. But a revolutionary process such as ours, with a leader with the stature of Omar, knows perfectly well that the promise made to negotiate with the people and for the people is now undergoing its most decisive phase. Consequently, Omar reaffirmed in Veraguas what we, the revolutionaries, already knew: No decision will be made until the people are consulted.

Omar's position could not be clearer. The process is based on principles. These principles tell us that our government and our people will never accept anything that could offend our dignity. This is the consensus gathered from the discussions of the government team and from the historic meeting held by Omar, the National Guard General Staff and most of the zone chiefs, a meeting which, to enhance its symbolism, was held after a long walk to the Panamanian Air Force base.

In summary, the speech given by the chief of government gives our people, together with the revolutionary stand of principles and behavior, greater and deeper confidence. We will all decide the future of the fatherland because, using Omar's words again, it is our responsibility to see that the future generation of Panamanians will have the opportunity to see the dawn of the 21st century in a free and completely sovereign fatherland.

DEMONSTRATORS PROTEST PRECANDIDATE REGISTRATION PROCESS

PA011200Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 31 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpts] A political protest concerning the selection process of precandidates for corregimiento representatives was carried out this morning for the first time in the 9-year tenure of this administration. Three buses carrying 110 persons from Ocu, Herrera Province, arrived at 1020 at the government palace in this city. Residents of the four corregimientos in the Ocu district participated in a demonstration in front of the Government Ministry building. The Ocu residents in complete orderliness remained in the street for a few minutes while a delegation headed by the precandidate for corregimiento representative of Ocu was received by Cesar Rodriguez Mailyn, vice minister of government and justice, in his office.

Meanwhile, the Ocu demonstrators discussed their complaints which were to be presented to the authorities. The complaints concern a series of irregularities being carried out in Ocu during the present period of registration of supporters for the corregimiento representative precandidates.

The Ocu residents met with Cesar Rodriguez Mailyn in the nationality room of the ministry. There, the vice minister told them that he was ready to listen to their complaints. He said that before the members of the group issued their complaints, he wanted to warn them that the national government, through the electoral tribunal, guarantees that the 6 August electoral process will be democratic and impartial and that no official support [for a candidate] will be allowed. You can be sure, Rodriguez said, that the electoral process will be completely impartial.

Precandidate Franklin Arjona Medrano voiced the complaints. He said that he was a spokesman for the Ocu peoples' concern over a series of irregularities being carried out which impede the free and democratic participation of the people in the registration of the precandidates. He accused Ocu Mayor Tobias Cedeno and Corregimiento Representative Raul Chang. He said that the two men are conspiring to exert pressure on the citizens of the district to sign registration lists for the candidacy of Raul Chang, who is trying to get reelected. Arjona Medrano also accused the Ocu mayor of improper and immoral conduct. Regarding Chang, Arjona Medrano said that since he is the head of the Ocu hospital, he has practically forced the medical and paramedical staff and the patients to sign his list.

Hugo Spadafora, vice minister of health, also participated in the meeting. He said that he will order an investigation of the charges made against the Ocu mayor and Raul Chang.

Finally, it was announced to the Ocu demonstrators that Minister of Government and Justice Jorge Castro was not present at the meeting because he was at the moment in Ocu District with Manuel Balbino Moreno, member of the Legislation Commission, investigating the charges of irregularities in the selection process of precandidates for corregimiento representatives.

ASSEMBLY PRECANDIDATES REQUESTED TO TURN IN WEAPONS

PA051608Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1925 GMT 5 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Panama City, 5 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--The Panamanian military authorities today asked the precandidate for the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives to turn in their weapons voluntarily.

A circular from the head of the weapons license section warns that the National Guard will seize weapons from candidates who fail to turn them in voluntarily within the next 2 days.

The circular is in response to complaints appearing in the local press during the last few days about threats and abuses by armed precandidates.

BRIEFS

INCREASED REVENUE--The director general of revenue of the Finance Ministry, Dr Fernando Aramburu Porras, has told LA REPUBLICA that the central government has collected 100 million balboas in the first 4 months of this year, representing an increase of over 17 million balboas as compared to the same period of time last year. [Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 2 Apr 78 p 1 PA]

DEPARTING ITALIAN, INDIAN AMBASSADORS--The Italian ambassador to Panama, Beniamino del Giudice, and the Indian ambassador to Panama, Chhedi Lal, were feted by the diplomatic corps on the occasion of their departure from Panama. [Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 27 Mar 78 p 4B PA]

EL SALVADOR

ARCHBISHOP CHARGES BIAS IN NEWS MEDIA

PA051532Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2308 GMT 4 Apr 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 4 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Monsignor Oscar Armulfo Romero y Galdamez, archbishop of San Salvador, today publicly accused the Salvadoran communications media of partiality in reporting on the violent events of the last few days in the rural areas. He also criticized several public service entities for not responding to the archbishopric's appeal for help for the peasant families of San Pedro Perulapan, 21 km east of this city, where 11 died during Holy Week as a result of clashes between leftists and anticommunists. One of the entities that refused to participate was the Salvadoran Red Cross. A Red Cross spokesman said that it participates in only humanitarian activities.

As head of the Salvadoran Catholic Church, Monsignor Romero has been promoting a general amnesty for prisoners charged with violating the law on public order. He said that the Salvadoran newspapers as well as the radio and television stations are not accurately reporting on these events because they have "sold out." However, the local newspaper PRENSA GRAFICA has retorted that the national press has widely reported on these events, including the archbishop's version.

HONDURAS

LA PRENSA DIRECTOR CHARGES BRIBERY BY STANDARD FRUIT

PA052024Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2030 GMT 4 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 4 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Ramon Villeda Bermudez, director of the local newspaper LA PRENSA, has said that the U.S.-owned Standard Fruit Company, which operates in northern Honduras, is making fabulous payments to a top army officer. In statements to LA TRIBUNA which were published today, Tuesday, Bermudez said that, aside from the military, two newsmen and top customs officers also receive money from the transnational company. The LA PRENSA director indicated that the high-ranking officer receives an "enormous sum, around \$3,000, more than the salary of the president of the republic."

The newsmen and politician said his source was a document he has in his possession. Asked the names of those involved, Bermudez said he did not want to mention them, explaining that the idea is to struggle "against a system, not against individuals. But he asserted that the document would soon be given to chief of state Gen Juan Alberto Melgar Castro, Armed Forces Chief Gen Policarpo Paz Garcia and U.S. Ambassador Mari-Luci Jaramillo. Villeda Bermudez said that he would give the document to the ambassador because it is known that the Carter administration has passed [emitido] a law against bribery applicable to transnationals operating overseas. He added that it will be up to the Honduran Government and the United States to investigate the reasons why the fruit company is making these payments.

Officials of the finance and immigration offices of the military government, when informed of the charges, publicly asked the LA PRENSA director to present the evidence. Answering a summons by Customs General Director Raul Flores Aucedo, Villeda Bermudez said that it pleased him very much since it shows the government's interest in taking corrective action.

Standard Fruit Company representatives in Tegucigalpa have not commented on the case.

If the newspaper director's charges are true, this would be the second known and confirmed case of bribery by U.S. banana companies in the past decade. In 1974 the WALL STREET JOURNAL exposed several Honduran officials who received bribes of 2.5 million from United Brands, formerly United Fruit Company. The exposure led to the downfall of the previous chief of state, Oswaldo Lopez Arellano.

Officer Refutes Charge

PA060400Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0438 GMT 5 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 4 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Lt Col Gustavo Alvarez, chief of Honduras' 4th military zone, today denied that he was being bribed by a transnational banana company. He was thus replying to accusations made by Ramon Villeda Bermudez, director of the Tegucigalpa newspaper LA PRENSA. Villeda Bermudez claimed to have a document which said that a high-ranking military man had accepted a \$3,000 bribe from a transnational banana company.

The local newspaper EL DIA went a step further than the director of LA PRENSA. It disclosed today the document listing the payments made by the U.S. transnational Standard Fruit Company to the 4th military zone, headquartered in the northern port of La Ceiba, as well as to journalists and customs officials there.

At a press conference held in the presidential palace, Alvarez, the chief of the 4th military zone, who was visibly upset, stressed that "I have never received and will never receive bribes from the Standard Fruit Company because I am an honest soldier." However, he admitted that Standard Fruit does pay almost \$2,500 to security personnel supervised by the army's 4th Battalion. The amount almost agrees with the amount mentioned in the document published by EL DIA yesterday. In replying to a question from a newsman, Alvarez stated that that payment should in no way be considered a bribe because it involves a practice "used by the banana company since before I was born."

LA PRENSA's director refuted Alvarez' statement by saying that this practice is against Honduran law because the constitution of the republic does not permit such payments. This means that the payment for security services made by the transnational to the army is illegal.

Alvarez did not disagree with this opinion, but claimed that the armed forces are using the payment not as a subsidy or bribe from the banana company but as a payment for protection of the transportation of the company's fruit and protection of its paymasters who travel to the fields once a week.

Alvarez expressed surprise when a newsman told him that Lt Col Juan Angel Arias, the minister of government, had already stated that security men at the banana company scarcely receive \$5 each per week which, if added together, would not amount to the large sum (approximately \$2,500) Alvarez had mention at the press conference.

Moreover, Alvarez also stated that he could not vouch for the authenticity of the document released by Villeda Bermudez and published by EL DIA. He said the document as well as the Standard Fruit Company ledger sheet could have been falsified.

NICARAGUA

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS OCCUPY INSTITUTE IN MASAYA

PA051625Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1502 GMT 5 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Masaya, Nicaragua, 5 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--High school students today seized the building of the national institute in this city east of Managua to protest the "lack of neutrality of some students and teachers of the institute." Spokesmen for the youths said that there are students and teachers in the institute who "collaborate with the military command, giving it information that is harmful to them." The protesters are demanding neutrality in the school, which is located 150 yards from the departmental military command.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION SENDS NOTE TO SOMOZA

PA052005Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1720 GMT 5 Apr 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] This morning the Permanent Human Rights Commission sent a message to Nicaraguan President Gen Anastasio Somoza asking him to respond to requests by Mrs Albertina Serrano de (Heinz), who for the past 173 hours has been staging a hunger strike to demand an end to the confinement incommunicado of her son Marcio (Heinz) and of Tomas Borge at the Modelo jail. The message was sent today despite the little importance that Somoza attached yesterday during a news conference to the attitude of all those who have been staging hunger strikes for the same reason at various Red Cross offices in several departments.

EMBASSY IN CARACAS REJECTS VENEZUELAN COMMUNIQUE

PA060328Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 5 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpts] The Nicaraguan Embassy in Caracas has rejected the communique issued by the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry explaining its position on the Somoza government's attacks. The Nicaraguan Embassy statement was made by Charge d'Affaires [name indistinct]. He said that the Foreign Ministry communique was based on false information and that the Foreign Ministry had based its statement on a report submitted by the Venezuelan representative to the OAS who, the embassy said, distorted the truth. Nevertheless, he said that Nicaragua is not interested in severing its relations with Venezuela and that any decision in this respect would have to come from the Venezuelan Government.

18 PERSONS REPORTED ON HUNGER STRIKES

PA051410Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1220 GMT 5 Apr 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Eighteen persons are on hunger strikes asking for an end to the incommunicado confinement of Sandinist National Liberation Front leaders who have been in Modelo prison for over 1 year. Eleven of the hunger strikers are women, relatives of the prisoners or members of the Association of Women Concerned with National Problems, known as AMPRONAC.

Somoza has said the strikes are politically motivated.

COMMENTARY SCORES NATO EXERCISE IN RED SEA

FL051517Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 5 Apr 78 FL

[Revolutionary Armed Forces and Interior Ministry combatants political information program commentary]

[Text] Reactionary forces insist on keeping the Horn of Africa as a center of tension. Lately, the United States, Britain and France have begun military maneuvers off the coast of Ethiopia in a show of force. It is evident that imperialism does not yet understand the real process of contemporary history. It does not want to accept that the peoples' struggles for freedom and independence and the triumph of this cause is an inevitable fact today.

Throughout history the imperialist forces themselves have taught the masses in Africa to realize that they can expect nothing from them. Centuries of colonialism, exploitation and humiliation have shown the African peoples the need to go on a war footing and to fight to gain their legitimate rights. This reality, carried out in the last few decades by the oppressed, has led to the fall of colonialism, the rise of independence, and the birth of several progressive, revolutionary and truly sovereign states.

The Ethiopian revolution, the protagonists of which are the most advanced of its heroic people, is part of this framework of struggle, of aspirations for liberty and of desires to achieve the exercise of sovereign rights and give them world acceptance. The attempt to frustrate the Ethiopian revolution caused imperialism to encourage Somalia to promote territorial appetites and launch an armed aggression against the neighboring country. The results of the criminal Somali attack are known. In only 5 months the Ethiopian combatants, supported by internationalist solidarity from other countries, swept the aggressors from the national territory.

Despite having suffered a crushing defeat, however, the Somali rightist faction continues to hew to imperialism. It is in contact with the United States and other NATO countries and is tied to Arab reactionary regimes to receive more military equipment, following a provocative policy against revolutionary Ethiopia.

Washington is the control center of the Somali activity. A couple of days ago Yankee Assistant Secretary for African Affairs Robert Moose paid a visit to Somalia which lasted longer than scheduled. At meetings Somalia asked for and the United States offered weapons. Moose had just left Mogadiscio when North American, British and French air and naval forces began military exercises in the region. The events are no coincidences; they are closely linked. The presence of destroyers and missile-carrying cruisers is an attempt to stimulate the Somali rightist faction, to encourage it to continue its erroneous policy of eager expansionism into Ethiopia, Djibouti and Kenya and to continue keeping that region of Africa in conflict.

The imperialists make and will continue to make an effort to prevent the easing of tension in the Horn of Africa and to frustrate the Ethiopian proposals to solve the problem with Somalia through peaceful means. The imperialists can persist in maintaining centers of tension and in supporting criminal actions, but they will not be able to crush the Ethiopian people. They will not be able to stop the revolutionary process in Ethiopia or the African revolution.

CASTRO TOURS VILLA CLARA TEXTILE MILL SITE

FLO60205Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 6 Apr 78 FL

[Text] While on a tour of various areas of the textile mill complex under construction in Santa Clara, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers, manifested the need for advancing by 1 year the completion of the project so that operations can start in 1980. Fidel stated that this objective must be discussed in a general assembly meeting with the construction workers in order to adopt the measures needed to achieve that goal and reach agreement on the workers' pledges.

During a dialog with workers and leaders of the largest project of the current 5-year period in Villa Clara Province, our commander in chief visited different areas of the construction site accompanied by PCC Politburo member Arnaldo Milian, Carlos Pis Delgado, first secretary of the party in that province, and other members of the PCC Central Committee. Surrounded at all times by a large group of workers, Fidel chatted with those accompanying him as he visited different places and stopped to ask questions about the work, difficulties and ways to solve them.

Fidel expressed interest in the experience of the members of construction brigade No 19A of the industrial construction enterprise No 5, which is mainly composed of youths, and on the progress of the work which, since the first part of the year, has recorded 101-percent fulfillment, according to an announcement made by Antonio Carlos Acevedo, chief of the construction work brigade. This year's investment amounts to 7.9 million pesos, almost twice what was spent in 1977. The assembling of steel structures for the large installations, roofing and other activities are moving at a good pace.

The president of the Council of State greeted Japanese specialists charged with the technical work and, subsequently, met with the main representatives of the construction brigade. Matters discussed during the tour and the material and manpower needs that must be resolved to guarantee the completion of the project in 1980 were some of the topics taken up during the meeting.

FIDEL RECEIVES CYPRIOT LEADER LISSARIDHIS

FLO51128Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, PCC Central Committee first secretary and Council of State and Council of Government president, has received Cypriot socialist party chairman Vasos Lissaridhis. The Cypriot leader's wife Barbara, foreign relations secretary of the party, also attended the meeting.

Present for the Cuban side were Rafael Polanco and Silvia Nereida Perez, deputy chief and official respectively of the PCC Central Committee Foreign Relations General Department.

Lyssarides and his wife have been in Cuba since 26 March at the invitation of the PCC Central Committee. During their stay in our country, they visited several places such as industrial, cultural and historical centers.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT ON REPAIRS AT MARTI AIRPORT

FL051850Y Havana Domestic Television Service 1800 GMT 5 Apr 78 FL

[Text] The Transportation Ministry has announced that, as a result of construction work in several places at Jose Marti International Airport in Havana City, and specifically because of runway repavement and remodeling of some areas of the airport's main building, air operations will be closed there 11-30 April. To continue service for national and international passengers, starting 11 April international flights will arrive and take off from the airport at San Antonio de los Baños. National flights will be serviced out of the Baracoa airport in Havana Province.

HART, MACHADO VENTURA ATTEND UJC-PIONEER CEREMONY

FL051321Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 5 Apr 78 FL

[Text] The 16th Union of Young Communists [UJC] anniversary and the 18th Jose Marti Pioneers organization anniversary have been commemorated with a solemn ceremony in which UJC banners of honor and distinctions of merit were awarded. Armando Hart Davalos and Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, Politburo members; Secretariat member Antonio Perez Herrero; and other members of the PCC Central Committee and the UJC National Bureau and committee attended the event. Luis Orlando Dominguez, Central Committee member and UJC first secretary, stressed that many anonymous, silent deeds are carried out by Cuban youth, this being possible in the first place because they are the sons of our working people. Referring to the awards given out, Luis Orlando stated that the banners and distinctions are in recognition of many virtues. He added: These awards bear fruit in youths who are heirs to a rich tradition of struggle, in whose hearts the marvelous ideas to give one's all for the happiness of the nation have been planted. He concluded by saying: These are the true exponents of today's Cuban youth, whose education is based more and more on the principles of socialist patriotism, heroic work and proletarian internationalism.

GARCIA PELAEZ, DORTICOS ATTEND HUNGARIAN RECEPTION

FL51731Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 5 Apr 78 FL

[Text] On the occasion of the 33d anniversary of Hungarian liberation, the ambassador from that fraternal country, Geno Jakus, has given a reception to honor the important date, which has been designated as Soviet-Hungarian Friendship Day. The event, held at the Hungarian diplomatic mission in the Cubanacan section of Havana, was attended by Politburo members Guillermo Garcia Pelaez and Osvaldo Dorticos; Secretariat member Raul Garcia Pelaez; Lionel Soto, chief of the Central Committee Foreign Relations General Department; Ziolo Marinello, chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology; Communications Minister Pedro Guelmes; other members of the PCC Central Committee; interim Foreign Minister Rene Anillo, and other ministers and officials.

BRIEFS

MALMIERCA CONGRATULATES SANTIAGO CDR--Maria Teresa Malmierca, national vice coordinator of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR], has sent a message to CDR members in Santiago de Cuba for the ongoing efforts aimed at fulfilling tasks in honor of the 25th anniversary of the assault on the Moncada barracks. Her message calls for improving the quality in tasks of the CDR-Revolutionary Armed Forces Secretariat and points out the need for cadres to deepen their knowledge of the internal functions of the organization. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1905 GMT 5 Apr 78 FL]

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

DAILY REPORT volumes are published Monday through Friday in both paper version (mailed daily) and microfiche version (mailed weekly). The annual subscription fee for the paper version within the United States, Canada, and Mexico is \$150 for any one volume and \$50 for each additional volume. This includes occasional supplements. In microfiche the fee is \$100 for any one volume, \$125 for two volumes, \$150 for three, \$200 for four, \$250 for five, \$300 for six, \$350 for seven, and \$400 for all eight volumes. Foreign subscriptions outside North America are available from appointed foreign dealers or from NTIS. For information contact NTIS. U.S. government officials may obtain subscriptions at no charge directly from FBIS. Phone 527-2368 (area code 703) or write P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013.

The volumes are: I - People's Republic of China; II - Eastern Europe; III - Soviet Union; IV - Asia & Pacific; V - Middle East & North Africa; VI - Latin America; VII - Western Europe; VIII - Sub-Saharan Africa. Back issues or single copies are not available. Allow 30 days for processing new subscriptions. Mail remittances, inquiries, and address changes to the NTIS address below.

Note: The publications of the Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS), which are sometimes cited in the DAILY REPORT, can also be ordered from NTIS in single copies or by subscription. In ordering, please cite the JPRS title, number, date and author if applicable.

Both the DAILY REPORT and JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at public and university libraries throughout the United States.

NTIS

National Technical Information Service
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Springfield, Virginia 22151

